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LETTER DATED 22 AUGUST 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF PORTUGAL, THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

We have the honour to attach a statement by the observer States of the Angolan peace process dated 22 August 1996.

We kindly request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Pedro CATARINO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Portugal
to the United Nations

(Signed) Sergey LAVROV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations

(Signed) Madeleine ALBRIGHT
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the United States of America
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Annex

Troika statement on Angola, dated 22 August 1996

The observer States of the Angolan peace process have reviewed the recent progress in the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol by the Government of Angola and the Uniaõ Nacional para a Indepêndencia Total de Angola (UNITA). While welcoming the real accomplishments of both sides in advancing the peace process, they note with concern that no progress has been made in the past two months on several issues necessary for the process to succeed.

The observer States welcome the announced meeting inside Angola between President José Eduardo dos Santos and Dr. Jonas Savimbi before the end of August, and express the firm hope that these issues will be resolved during that meeting, if not earlier.

Of particular concern is the failure of UNITA to fulfil its public commitment to sent its 10 senior generals to Luanda to begin the process of military integration as described by the Lusaka Protocol. The observers recognize that questions have been raised concerning the duties the generals will exercise and their personal security within Luanda. However, the observers believe that the conditions are now adequate for this key step to be taken and believe that the remaining concerns can be best resolved once the process of general officer integration has begun. Their arrival in Luanda must not be delayed any further.

The observer States note with satisfaction the progress made by both parties in resolving the issues of the selection process of other officers and enlisted personnel into the Angolan Armed Forces. Concrete movement towards integration must now occur. The process of UNITA quartering and disarmament, including the collection of heavy weapons, is close to completion and should be brought to conclusion in coming days. Peace will not truly be at hand until a unified national army is formed, and the observers encourage this process to move forward expeditiously. The observer States remain concerned that delays in military integration have been a factor in the postponement of the formation of a government of national unity.

Once the UNITA generals have arrived in Luanda, there must be no further impediment to the formation of a government of national unity. The observers call on both President dos Santos and Dr. Savimbi to settle any outstanding issues, including the issue of Dr. Savimbi's status, at their upcoming meeting, and to begin the formation of a unified government within 14 days of that meeting. The observer States and the international community will welcome this important step and will ensure that the new government receives encouragement at its inception and support in the coming months.

The observer States recall that annex 6, section II, paragraph 6, of the Lusaka Protocol states that the President of UNITA "shall be guaranteed a special status". While allowing that the nature of Dr. Savimbi's special status can only be negotiated by the two parties, the observers urge that this issue be quickly resolved. A strong government of national unity is an essential step

towards national reconciliation and economic progress, ensuring the participation of UNITA in the political process in Angola.

The observers recall the necessity of providing conditions for the unobstructed delivery of humanitarian assistance throughout Angola, and the free movement of persons and goods throughout the country. In this context, the observers unreservedly condemn the continuing obstruction of roads, interference with humanitarian workers, and the obstruction of mine-removal activities.

The observer States encourage the Government of Angola to continue and intensify its efforts to collect weapons from the population as required by the Lusaka Protocol. The continuing presence of large amounts of arms among the civilian population increases the scale of criminal activity and needs to be dealt with if civil society is to be rebuilt.

The observer States of the Angolan peace process reaffirm their commitment to ensure that the Lusaka Protocol is implemented fairly and rigorously. They note that the peace process is at a crucial moment and expect that the parties will make the necessary positive contributions to its success. They call upon the Government of Angola and UNITA, which is holding its party congress at this time, to work towards these goals. They commend United Nations Special Representative Mr. Alioune Blondin Beye's outstanding efforts. They also express the hope that sufficient funding and means will be made available by the international community to allow the United Nations agencies to implement critical demobilization and reintegration programmes that are necessary for the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol to be completed.